

STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2016

Call to order

Chair Hill called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center on March 7, 2016 at WW17, Boise Capitol.

Roll call

Chair Hill conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Dave Hill, Lorna Finman, Von Hansen, Chuck Zimmerly, Ken Edmunds, Megan Ronk, Amy Lientz (for Mark Peters), Angela Hemingway, and Erica Compton. (Jeff Williams absent)

Past Board Notes Approved – January 16, 2016

IDLA Portal Presentation – Cheryl Trautman, Ryan Gravett, Sherawn Reberry

- a) Overview of IDLA
- b) Overview of code.org project statewide
- c) Portal overview
- d) Consensus from Board on working with IDLA to create portal(s) for the STEM Action Center

Legislative Updates

- a) Board travel is almost through the entire process
- b) Tax Credit- passed full house – final leg of Senate Floor. As soon as signed it is in effect for all of 2016. Up to \$500 for individual and \$5000 for a business.
- c) Computer Science initiative – passed full house, then referred for amendment. Mostly minor amendments. Has to go back to House and Senate. Much work to be done in the next 2 weeks, but it does have good bipartisan support.
- d) STEM Education Fund – Has been stalled for 3 weeks in the House. Finally is on the House Education agenda on Wednesday the 9th at 9 am. We will need industry leaders and Board members to come and testify.
- e) STEM Action Center budget will be set on Thursday, March 10th from 8-10 am. You are welcome to attend and support the budget setting.
- f) 501c3 status – Angela met with Idaho Science, Math and Technology Coalition (ISMTC) regarding partnering with STEM AC to run a grant with either Verizon

or AT&T. Ken Edmunds brought up that it was his understanding that the plan was for the STEM Action Center to setup a foundation to accept donations that are restricted to 501c3. Also look at 501c4 options. The Board agrees that we need to move forward on securing our 501c3 status. Board members offered to assist in the process. (Amy and Ken) In the interim, use ISMTC for the one grant.

Budget Update

- a) i-STEM – STEM Action Center is waiting to hear about the MSP grant – hopefully within the next 2 weeks. Ann Siefert shared information on upcoming year – MSP is a Federal pass through from the state. Workshops held in 6 regions in June. STEM Action Center would provide funding to support a session in Twin Falls training on BrickLAB. Discussion on the future of i-STEM and the process to move forward with transitioning this to another entity – whether the SBE or STEM Action Center. Chair Hill suggested that we create a sub-group to address this issue and discuss and assist with this transition. Will set something up to meet on this starting in May.
- b) Khan Academy's LearnStorm - \$15,000 total (Two \$5,000 seed grants have been reviewed and will be rewarded. \$5,000 for the finale event.)
- c) Invent Idaho – regional and state competitions supported with \$1,500.
- d) STEM Works – discussion on next steps of the RFP process and what is next. With no new standards being approved this year we are questioning on whether we need to delay the process. Could justify waiting one more year until we have approved standards.
- e) PK12 STEM Grants and FabSLAM updates
- f) Family STEM Events – will be awarding this week. May have additional monies coming that would allow us to fund more. New intern, James will start on 3/8/2016 and will focus on these events, conduct research, compile data and write a white paper. Will likely present to Board in Fall.

Grant and PD Updates

- a) FIRST FTC Regionals and Travel – 5 teams for regionals funded. Working on getting additional funding to support travel for national competition.
- b) Reviewed a list of Grants that we have applied for and status of these overall. Director Hemingway asked if the Board wished for her to pass all grants by them before applying. Consensus was that the staff use best judgement and not

Chairman Hill called for a short break.

Reconvened at 2:35

Pi Day event overview and request for support and attendance

Computer Science Initiative Planning Group

- a) Director Hemingway provided an overview of this group, mission, and progress.
Dr. Finman asked to be included at one of these meetings.

Strategic Planning and Long-Term Goals

Chairman Hill explained that he had requested a discussion on our long-term goals and strategic plan and how important this is for us to keep in mind. Director Hemingway provided an overview of our legislation and how that guides our actions.

Discussion ensued on parent awareness campaign and how it is critical for ongoing support and success. Director Hemingway asked for assistance on being informed of local events that reach parents where we might attend and share the STEM Action Center's mission shared widely.

Discussion on lack of adequate career counseling throughout Idaho and the need to raise awareness and support what schools are doing the best we can.

Discussion ensued on the STEM Matters campaign with KBOI2 TV and where we are with this campaign currently. Director Hemingway shared that we are focusing more on this for the coming fiscal year given current Spending Authority. However, we are using the Pi Day event to kick it off as well and will be arranging more meetings with industry to introduce the campaign and look for future support.

Discussion on Intel Science and Engineering Fair.

Lorna asked about staffing for the STEM Action Center – what does the legislation allow us to hire next year? If CS passes it will only be one FT position added. Otherwise we will need to rely on contractors, which is not an ideal situation for consistency in the long-term.

Topic Feedback

Discussion on what Board would like to hear about next. Chuck will talk with SDE to see if they are able to share information on Mastery Advancement Program and MS IT Academy for the May Board Meeting.

Public Comments - NONE

Next Meeting date – May 17 1:00 - 4:00

Chair Hill adjourned the meeting at 3:35 pm